GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:81
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2005
FIXED LINE SUBSCRIBERS OF BSNL
Bhadana Shri Avtar Singh

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the fixed line subscribers of the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) at the time of its inception;

(b) the details of the growth of its subscribers during the last 3 years;

(c) whether a large number of subscribers are using wireless fixed line phones due to additional benefits and other quality services offered by them; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to instal Fixed Wireless Phones (FWP) instead of wireline network in future?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) Sir, at the time of its inception on 01.10.2000, BSNL`s, subscriber base was 2,80,37,056.

(b) During the last three years, additions in BSNL subscriber base are as follows:

Year	Landline	Wireless in Local Loop (WLL)	Cellular Mobile	Total
2002-03	2212469	319220	2238611	4770300
2003-04	18679	442873	2997829	3459381
2004-05	423845	669319	4193240	5286404

(c) & (d) As on 30.09.2005, a total of 14,45,475 Fixed Wireless Phone (FWP) subscribers were being served by BSNL. The fixed wireless phone service was introduced basically as a substitute to wireline services in areas where it was not feasible techno-commercially to provide connection on wireline due to long loop length or difficult terrain conditions. The elimination of line faults and lead time in laying cable for wired connections besides inherent flexibility of wireless services is a big advantage. Wireless services offer improved quality, faster & economic rollout of telecom services and increased customer satisfaction. BSNL has planned extensive use of Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) Technology in urban and rural areas. However, problems are encountered in proper working of WLL system due to poor availability of A/C mains power supply in rural areas.